

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCCT-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SY-04 USSS-00 OPR-02 SCA-01

NEA-14 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01

/080 W

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R 071411Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2682

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 4054

FOR S/CCT

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC

SUBJECT: RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL USED AS TERRORIST DEVICE

REF: STATE 084808

SUMMARY: DUE TO INADEQUATE CONTROLS, A NON-LETHAL AMOUNT OF IODINE 131 WAS STOLEN FROM A RAILROAD BAGGAGE TRUCK ON APRIL 12 AND USED AS DISRUPTIVE DEVICE ABOARD ROME EXPRESS ON APRIL 16. ANONYMOUS CALLER CLAIMING TO BE JUSTICE GUERRILLA NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED AND INCIDENT VIEWED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS ONE TIME EXPLOITATION BY PRANKSTER OF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY UNATTENDED SHIPMENT OF MEDICAL IODINE 131. SUBSEQUENT INCIDENTS WERE HOAXES GENERATED BY EXCESSIVE PRESS PLAY ACCORDING AUSTRIAN POLICE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON APRIL 16, AN ANONYMOUS CALLER CLAIMING TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JUSTICE GUERRILLAS STATED TO THE POLICE THAT RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL HAD BEEN PLACED ABOARD A TRAIN BOUND FOR ITALY. INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT A STRONG BUT NOT DANGEROUS AMOUNT OF IODINE 131 HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER THE SEAT OF THE ROME EXPRESS. THIS MATERIAL WAS STOLEN ON APRIL 12 FROM A SHIPMENT OF IODINE 131 WHICH WAS INTENDED FOR A HOSPITAL IN LINZ.

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2. WHILE CONSIDERABLE REGULATIONS EXIST FOR THE SAFE HANDLING OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL, POLICE INVESTIGATION REVEALED THAT THE SHIPMENT ON APRIL 12, WHICH CONSISTED OF THREE PACKAGES, REMAINED UNATTENDED ON A BAGGAGE TRUCK FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO HOURS IN THE MAIN RAILROAD STATION.

3. CONSIDERABLE PRESS HYSTERIA FOLLOWED THE INCIDENT WHICH SUBSTANTIVELY INVOLVED NO REAL THREAT TO LIFE OR PROPERTY. POLICE HAVE NO LEADS AS TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHO INITIATED THE INCIDENT OR HIS MOTIVATION. A SPATE OF FOLLOW-UP INCIDENTS AND TREATS RESULTED IN A SOMEWHAT DOUBTFUL SECOND EPISODE A WEEK LATER IN WHICH A MINUTE AMOUNT OF INDIUM 113-M WAS FOUND ON THE OUTSIDE OF A RAILROAD CAR. EXPERTS DO NOT AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT THE TRACES OF INDIUM 113-M RESULTED FROM A CONSCIOUS CRIMINAL ACT SINCE THE SUBSTANCE IS CONTAINED IN A NUMBER OF MEDICINES, THE DISPOSAL OF WHICH IS NOT CONTROLLED.

4. THE ABOVE INFORMATION CAME FROM CONFIDENTIAL POLICE SOURCES WHICH SHOULD BE PROTECTED. HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, RADIOACTIVE ISOTOPES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENNA04054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740110-0497
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740566/aaaachjw.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCCT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 084808
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <07 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL USED AS TERRORIST DEVICE
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, IT, AU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005